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Braun

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(54) **BOTTOM MOUNT ADJUSTABLE CABINET MOUNTED FRAME**

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(72) Inventor: **Thomas Braun**, Glen Head, NY (US)

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A47B 88/04 (2006.01)
A47B 96/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***A47B 88/0466*** (2013.01); ***A47B 88/044*** (2013.01); ***A47B 96/00*** (2013.01); *A47B 2210/0054* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A47B 88/0044; A47B 88/0055; A47B 88/18; A47B 2210/0054
USPC 312/334.27, 330.1, 331, 332, 334.5, 312/334.4, 334.6, 334.32, 334.44, 273
See application file for complete search history.

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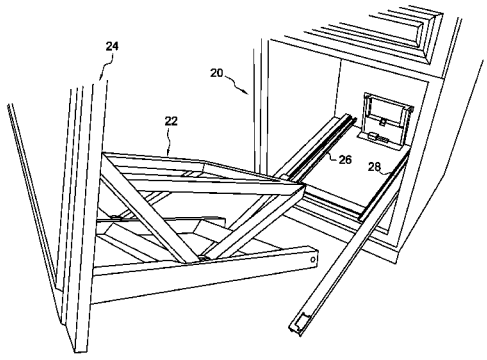
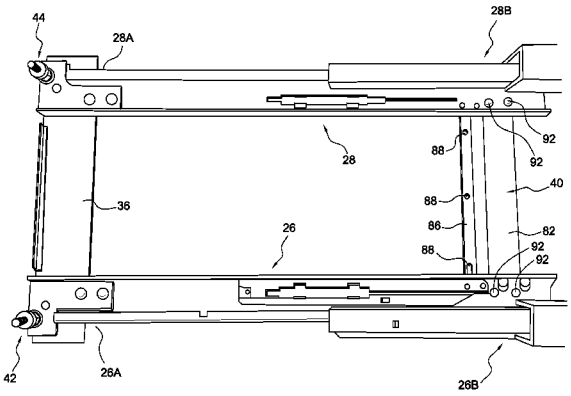
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An extendable and retractable container assembly for recyclable materials which includes a pair of drawer slide structures that are interconnected by a rear cross-member bracket and a front cross-member bracket to retain them in spaced parallel relation with the rear ends of the slide structures being independently adjustably supported by two unique adjusting structures.

19 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets





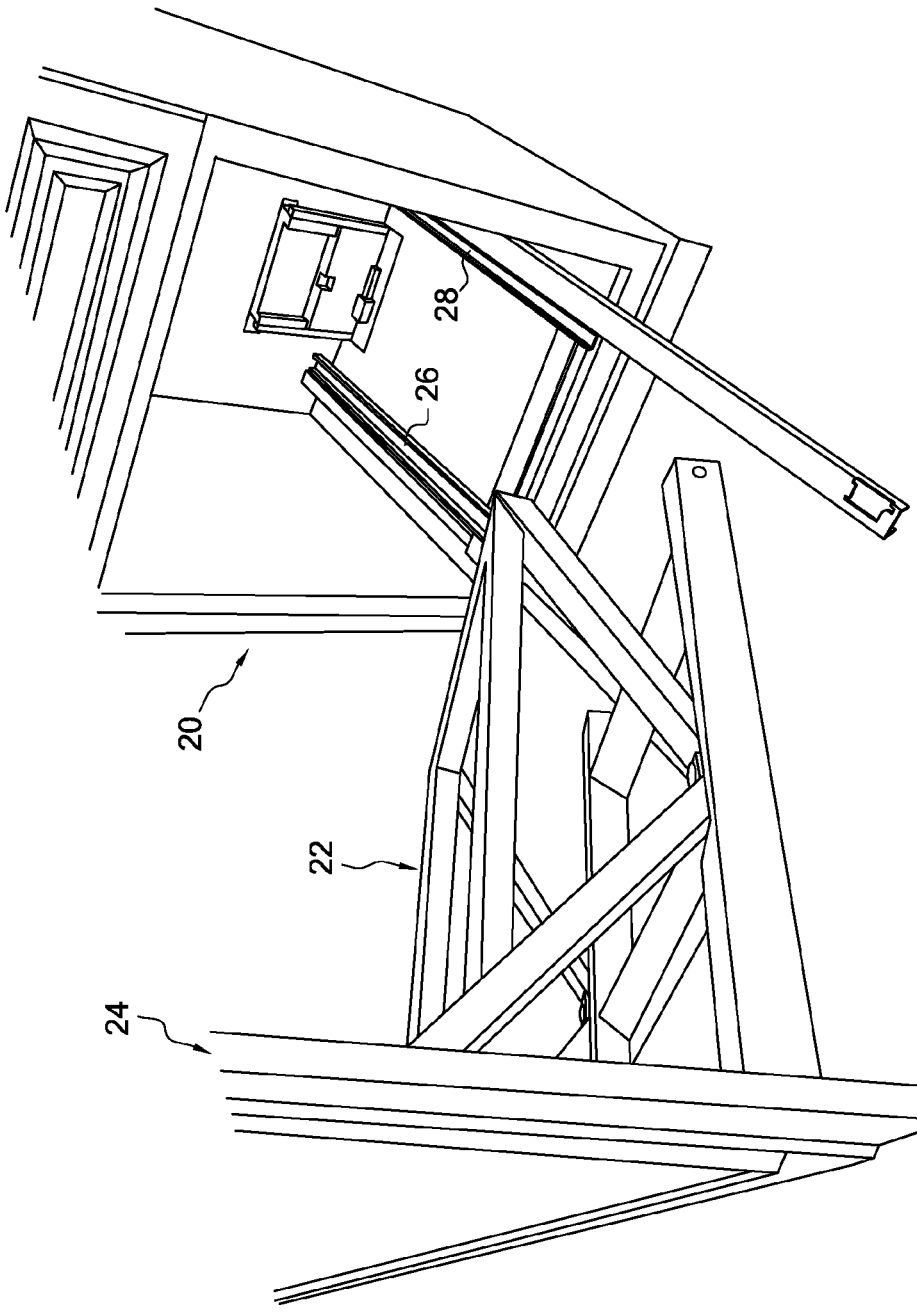


FIG. 1

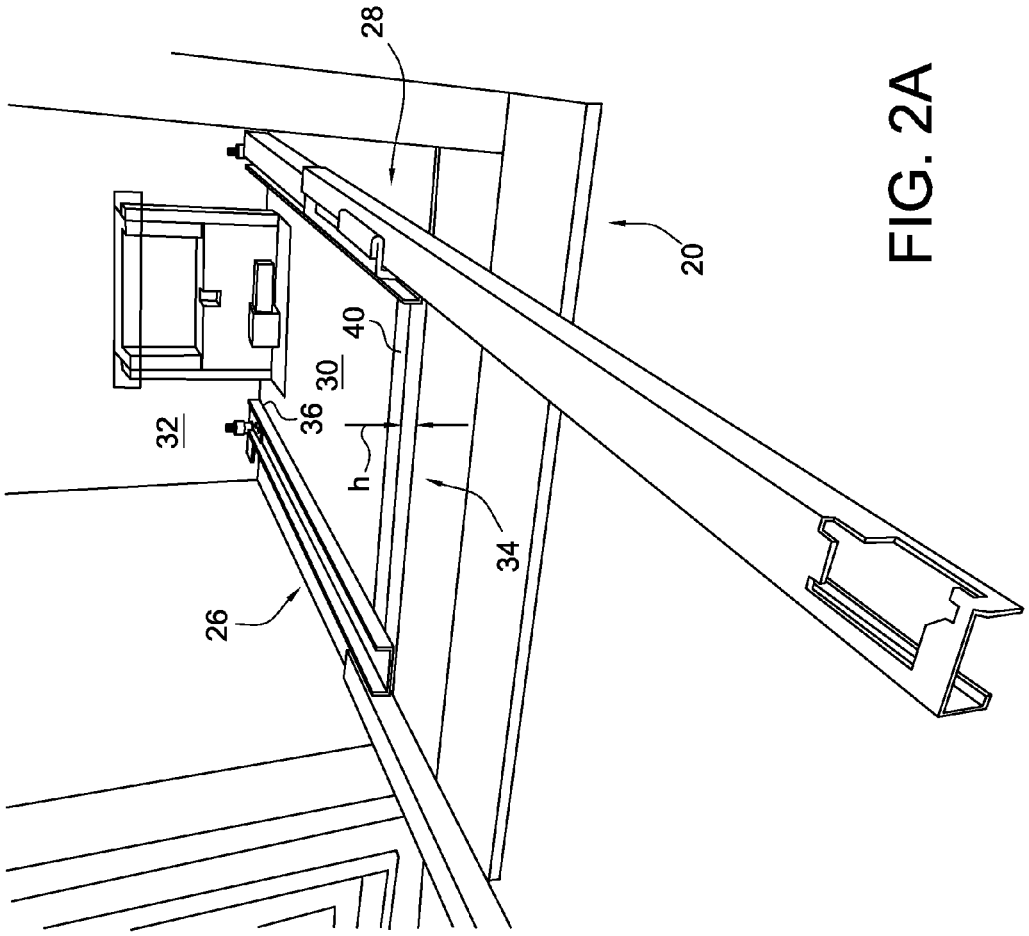


FIG. 2A

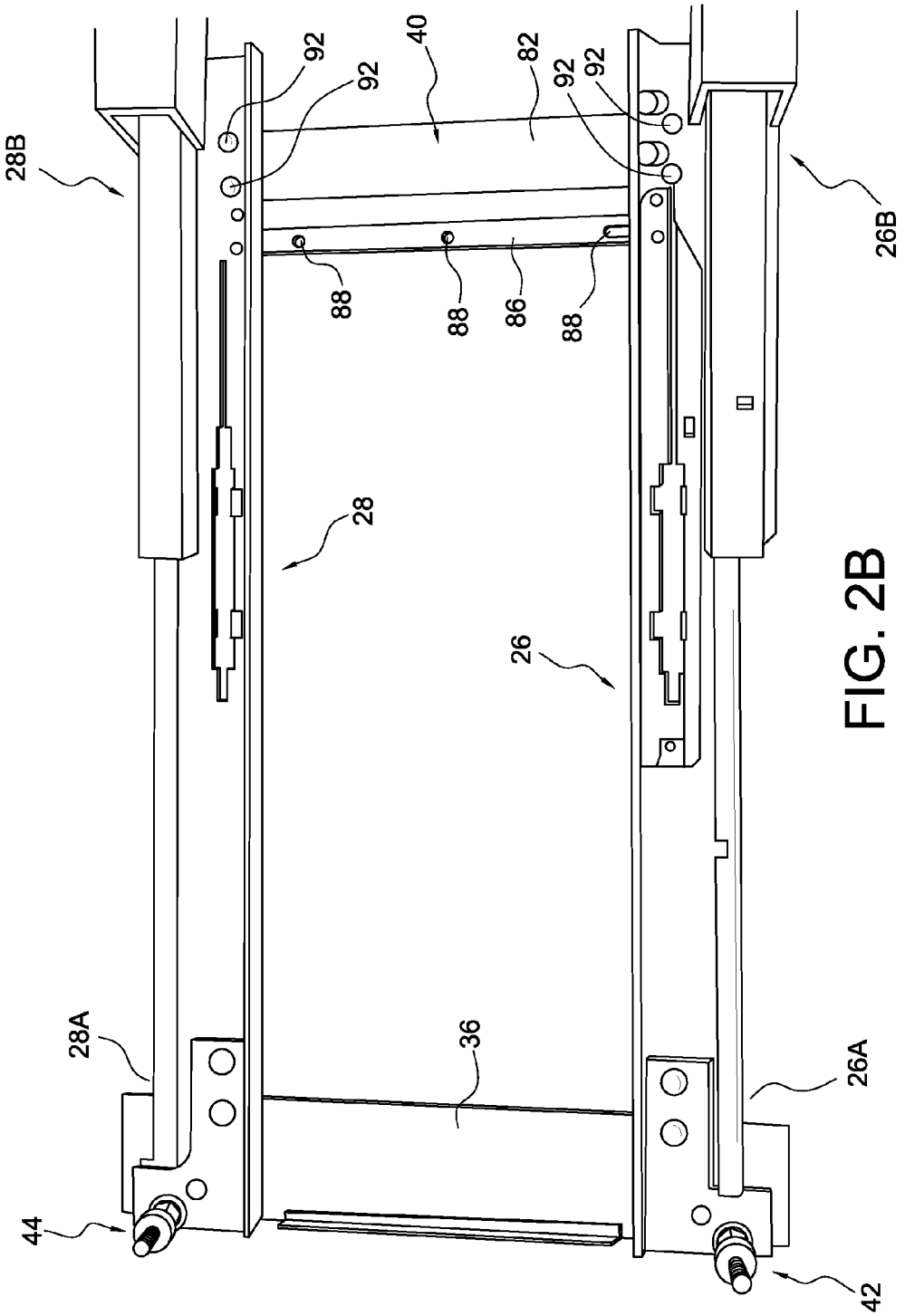


FIG. 2B

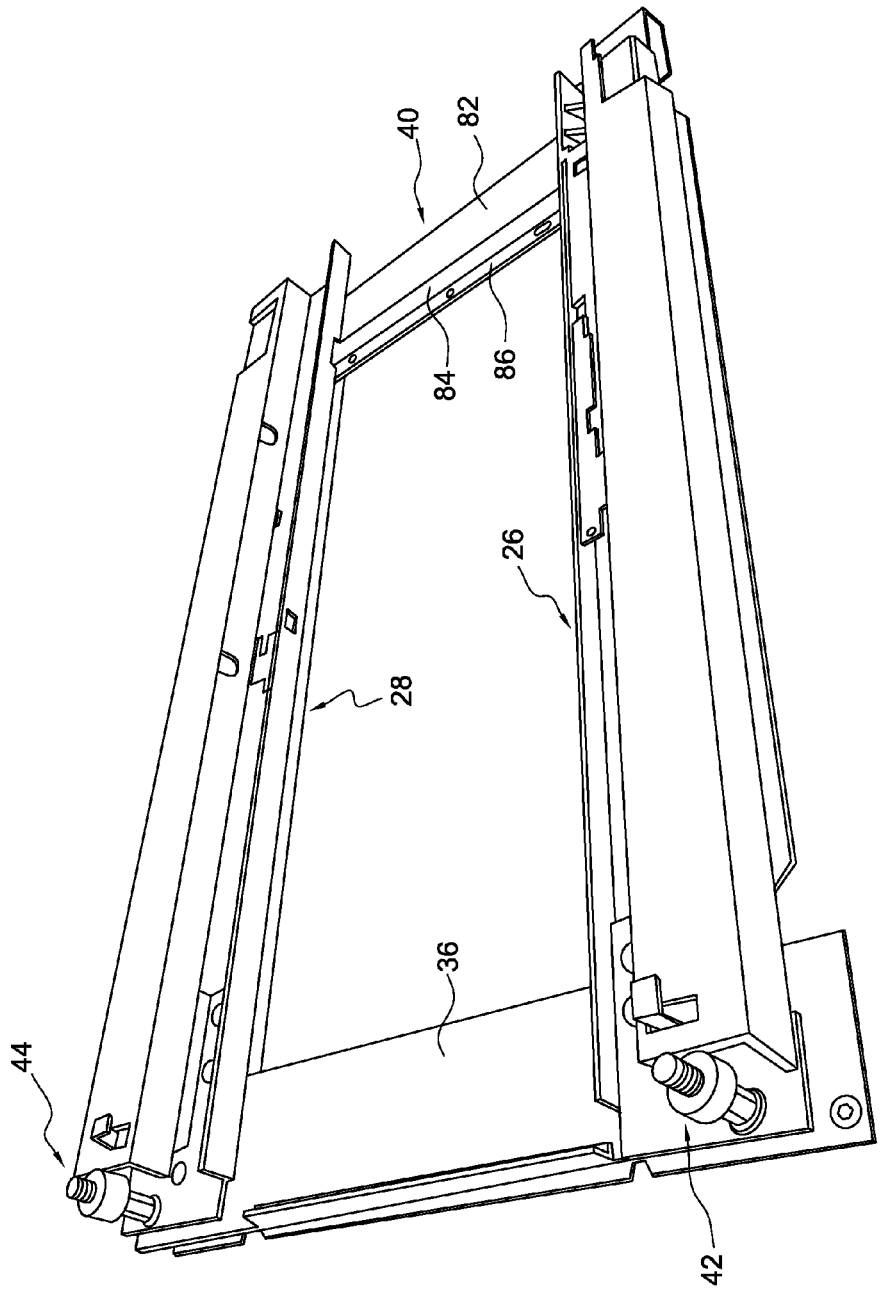


FIG. 2C

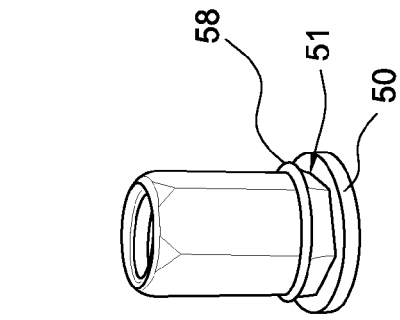


FIG. 5

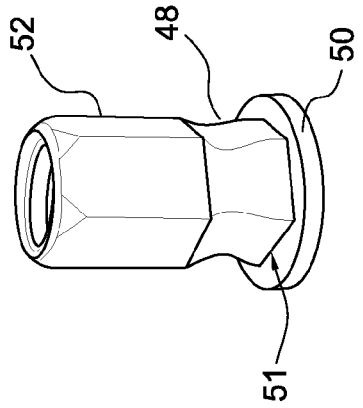


FIG. 4

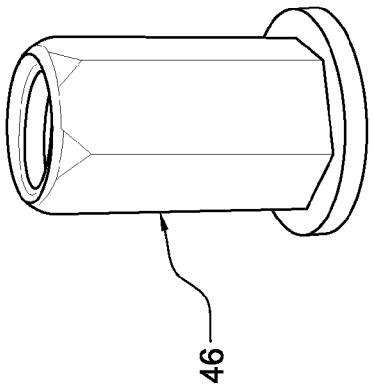


FIG. 3

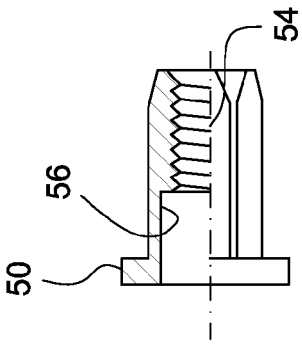


FIG. 6

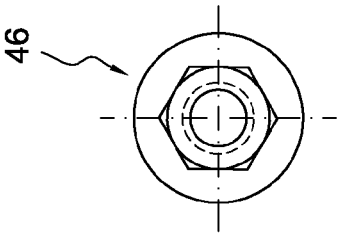


FIG. 7

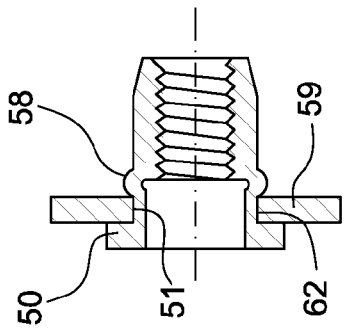


FIG. 8

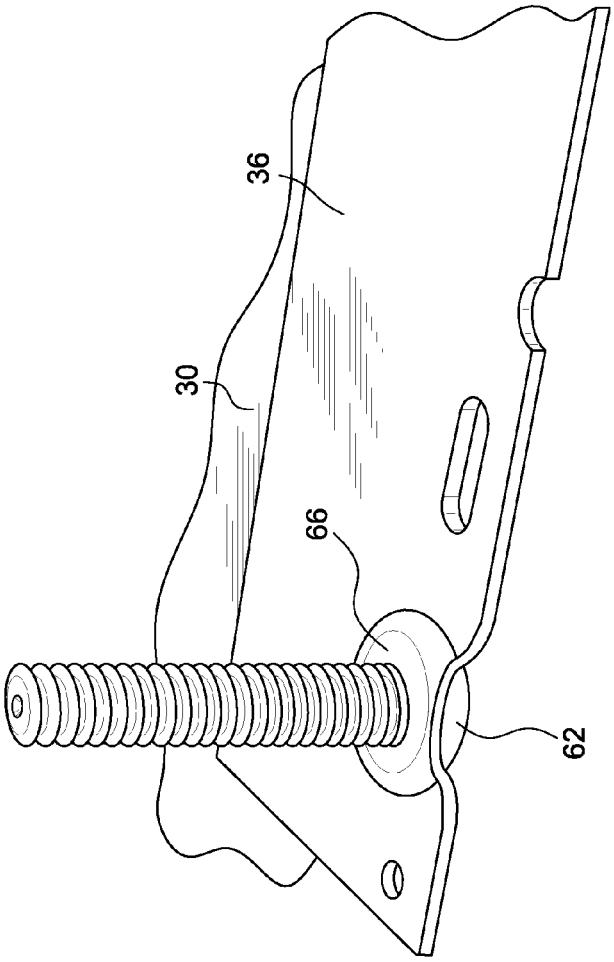


FIG. 10

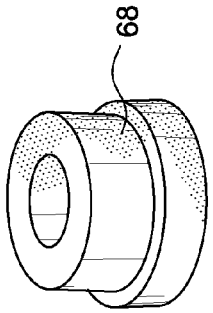


FIG. 11

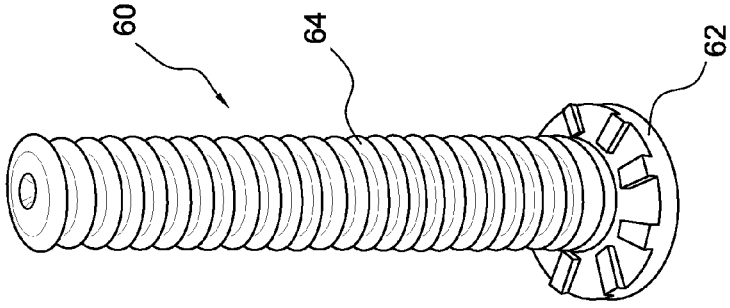


FIG. 9

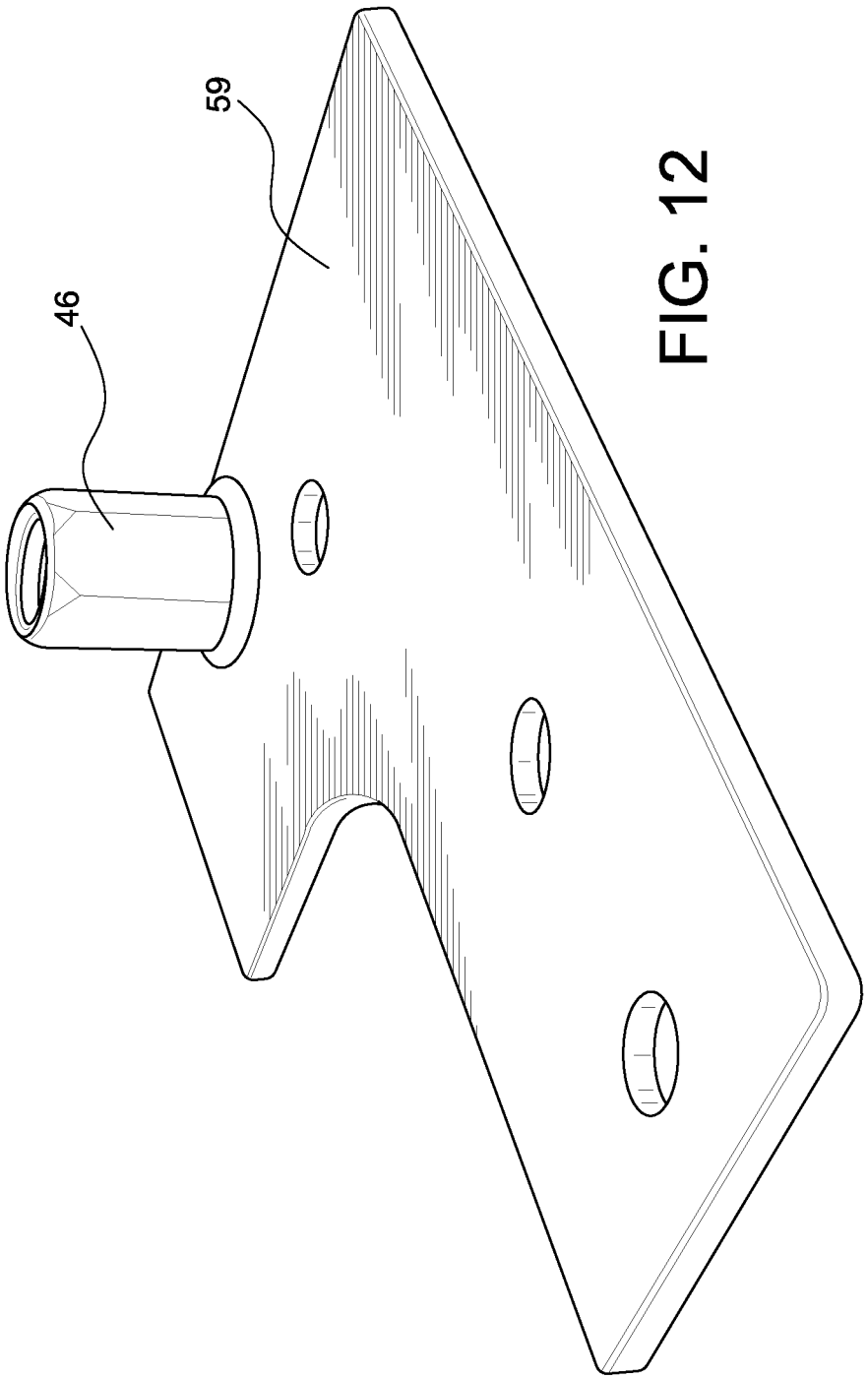


FIG. 12

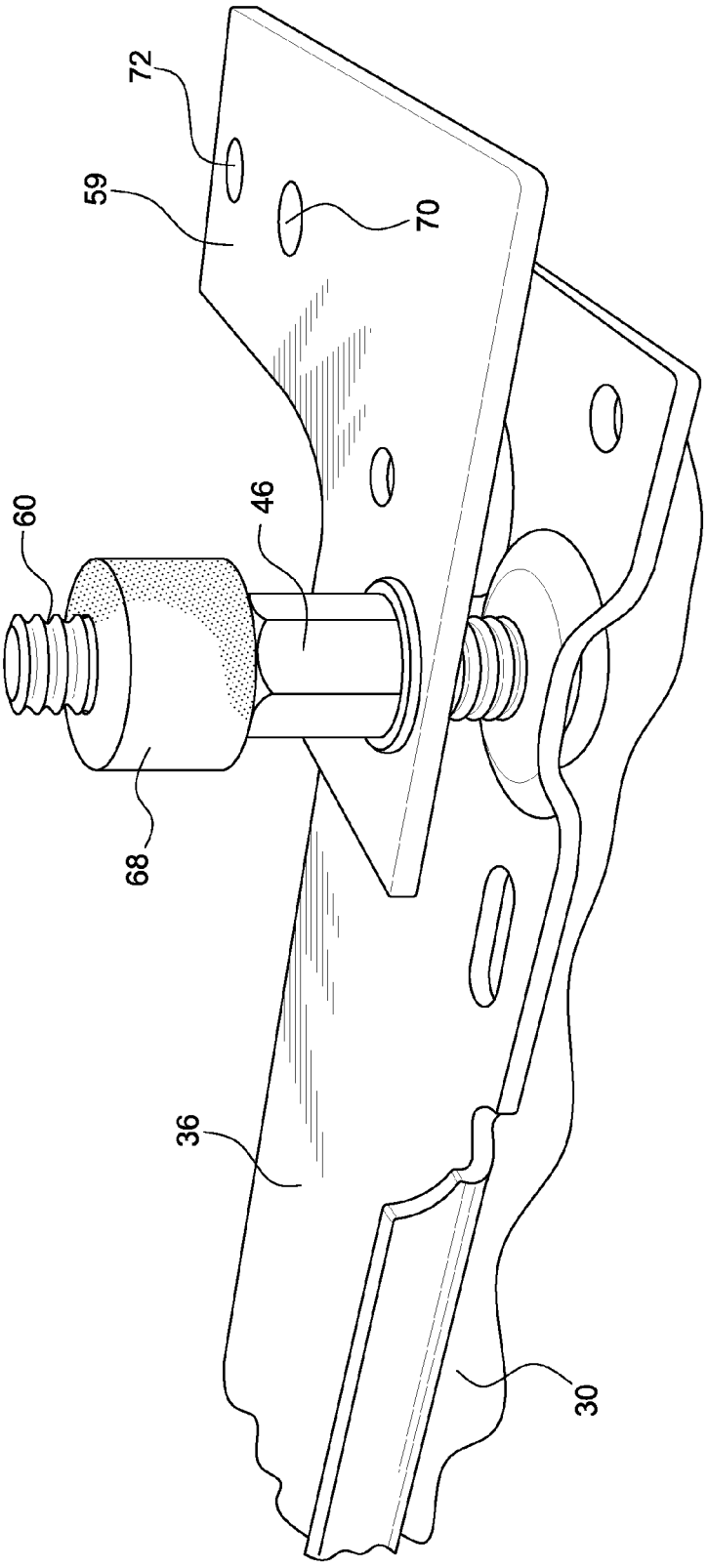


FIG. 13

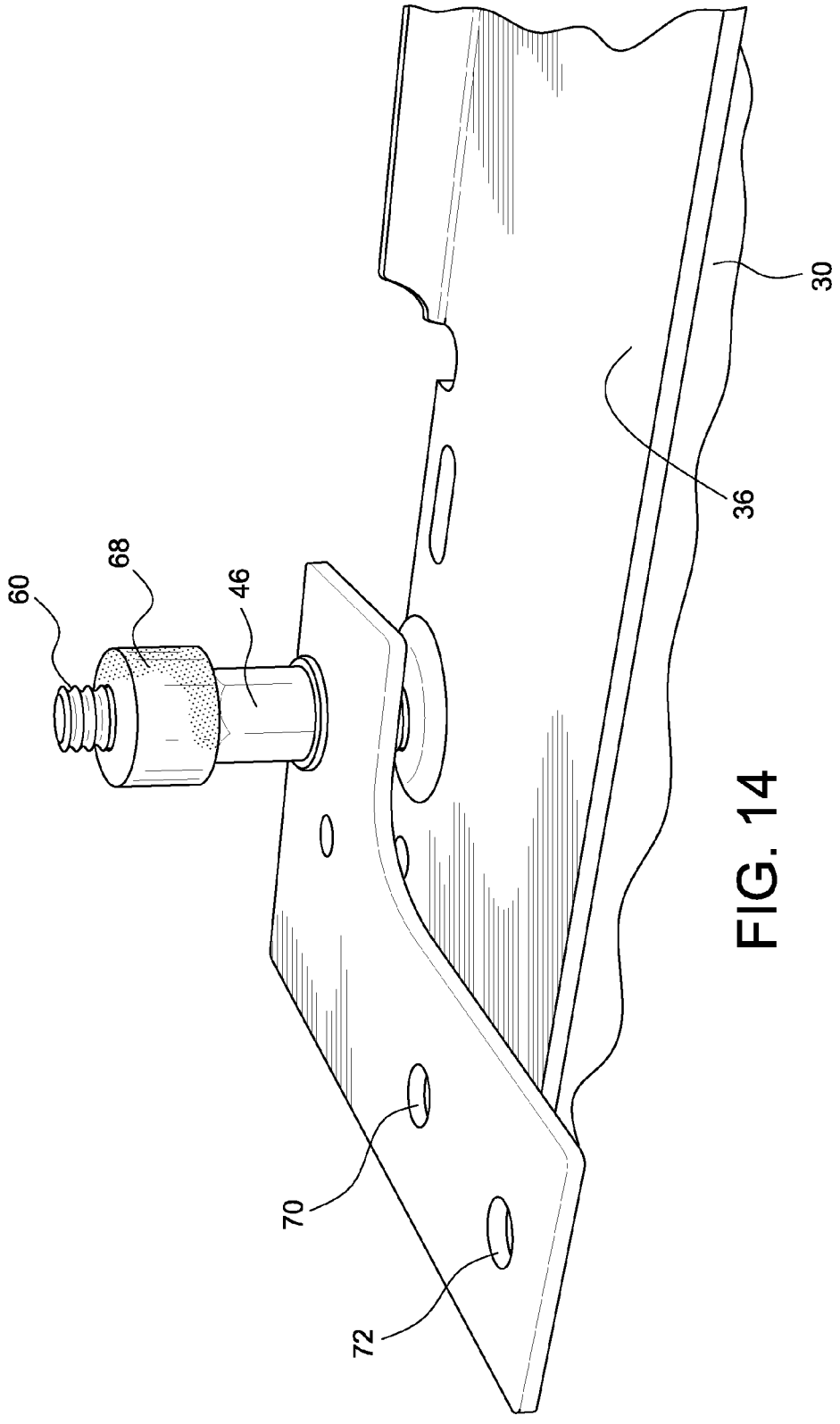


FIG. 14

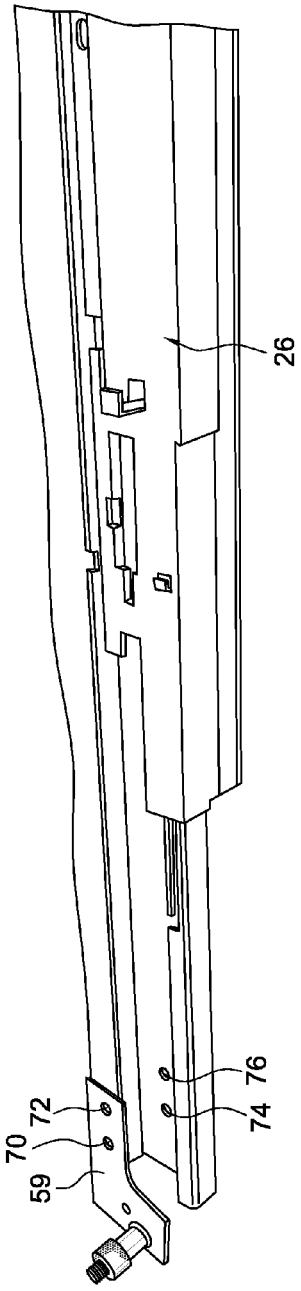


FIG. 15

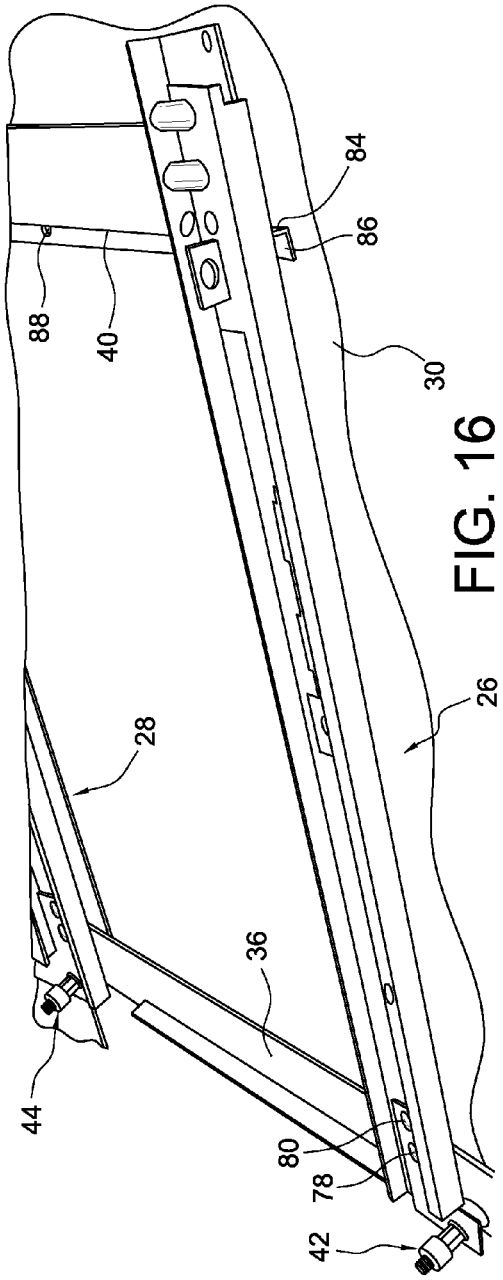


FIG. 16

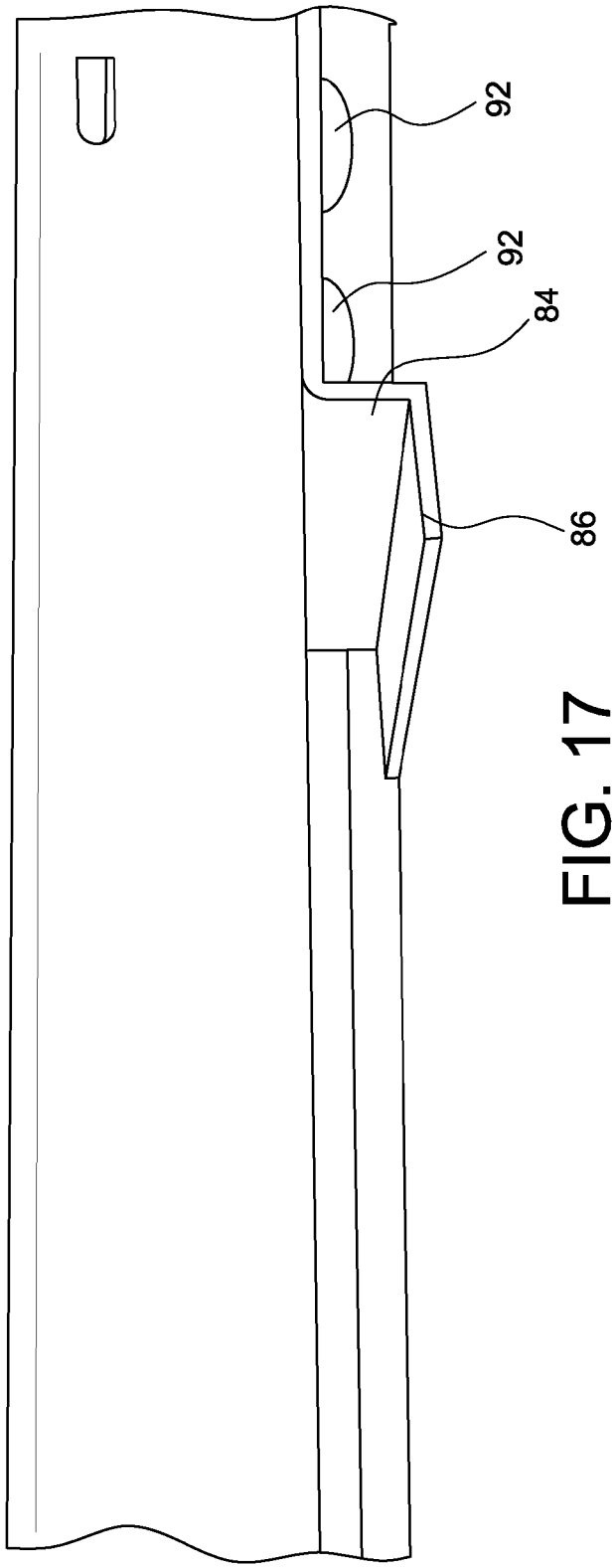


FIG. 17

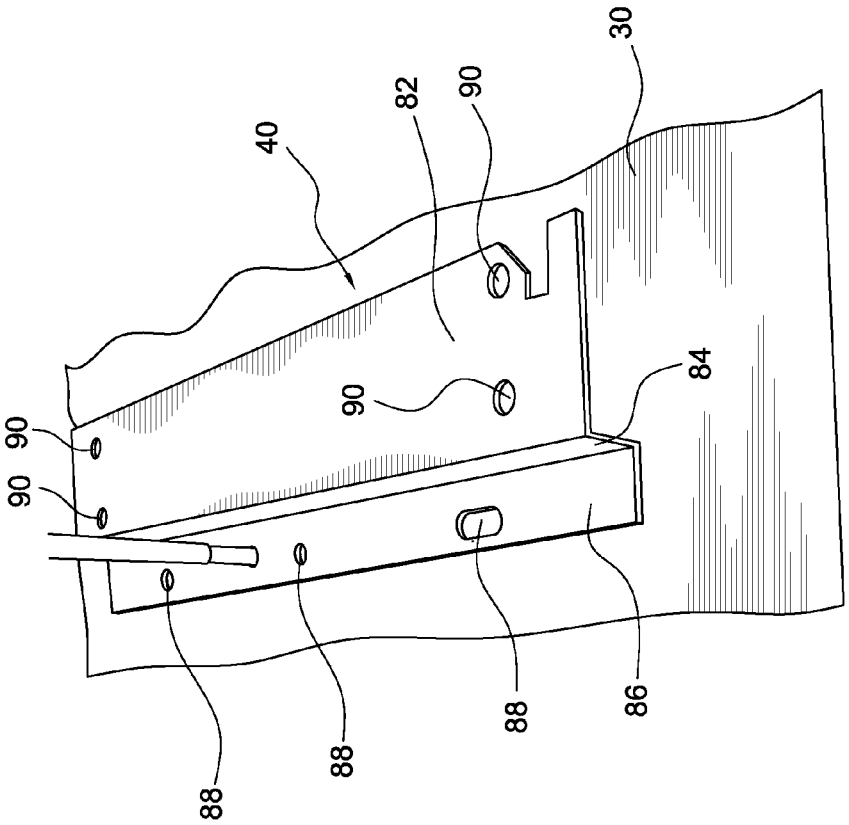


FIG. 18

BOTTOM MOUNT ADJUSTABLE CABINET MOUNTED FRAME

This application is a non-provisional application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 61/694,884, filed Aug. 30, 2012, and hereby incorporated in its entirety by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the field of cabinet mounted hardware.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is often difficult to properly align a cabinet face with respect to the cabinet body. Due to the positioning of interiorly located slide assemblies within a cabinet, alignment of the cabinet face may be skewed. It is therefore an object of the present invention to properly align a cabinet face with respect to a cabinet body by minimal adjustments.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to a container assembly for recyclable materials mounted within a cabinet for movement between an extended position in which the open tops of the bins or containers are exposed for receiving recyclable materials and a retracted position in which the bins are concealed. The container assembly is supported for movement between its extended and retracted positions by a pair of drawer slide assemblies with supporting cross-member brackets being connected to the slide assemblies.

The slide assemblies are mounted on a bottom of the cabinet under a center of the load to be applied to the slide assemblies. The slide assemblies interengage with brackets on which a door can be mounted for adjustment to accurately fit the opening in the front wall to form a closure for the cabinet in which the container assembly is mounted. The container assembly is constructed to enable easy removal of the bins or containers, easy mounting and assembly and quick and effective adjustment with all adjustments being securely locked when all components of the assembly are oriented in an optimum adjusted position.

An object of the present invention is to provide an extendable and retractable container assembly for recyclable materials which includes a pair of drawer slide structures that are interconnected by a rear cross-member bracket and a front cross-member bracket to retain them in spaced parallel relation with the rear ends of the slide structures being independently adjustably supported by two unique adjusting structures.

Another object of the invention is to provide a container assembly for recyclable material in which the movable components of the drawer slide assemblies support at least one bin or receptacle for receiving recyclable materials with the upper ends of the bin or container being exposed and accessible when moved to an extended position to provide access thereto in order to enable categorized recyclable materials to be placed in the bin.

By including two independent adjusting structures at the rear of the slide assemblies, the adjusting structures raise and lower the slide assemblies independently of each other. This all occurs at the rear end of the slide assemblies.

However, in the front of the cabinet, where a Z-shaped cross-member bracket supports and is secured to the slide assemblies, the slide assemblies are caused to move independently of each other and adjust the position of the cabinet door by the torsional twist or flexure of the Z-shaped front cross-member bracket. Alternately, a C-shaped front cross-member bracket may be used.

This aids in moving the cabinet face so that the cabinet face lies flush against the cabinet in a vertical plane. A three-dimensional adjustment of the cabinet face is provided so as to secure an aesthetically pleasing proper alignment of the cabinet face.

Depending upon the independent adjustment of the two ends at the rear of the slide assemblies, the slide assemblies are caused to change relative positioning and thereby vary the alignment of the cabinet face. It is understood as being within the scope of the present invention that rotation of the independent adjustment assemblies in opposite directions, or in the same direction to different degrees, will cause the adjustment of the cabinet face to tip the alignment of the cabinet face.

The adjusting assembly is formed by machining of a full-hex threaded insert available as Atlas MaxTite® Blind Threaded Rivets distributed by PennEngineering of Dunboro, Pa. The threaded insert is machined to create a thinner walled round section located between the base and upper end of the insert. The round section begins at a height above the base at a height greater than a thickness of an L-shaped bracket. The threaded insert is placed in a hole of the L-shaped bracket. The insert is then compressed to form a lip. The threaded insert is captured within the hole of the L-shaped bracket between the base and the thus formed lip.

The threaded insert is of a dimension slightly less than the hole of the L-shaped bracket so as to allow free rotation of the threaded insert upon clockwise or counter-clockwise rotation of the threaded insert in an adjustment of the slide assemblies. The L-shaped bracket is securely connected by rivets to the rear of each of the slide assemblies. A bolt or stud is held securely by the rear cross member bracket and threaded through the threaded insert, thereby moving the L-shaped bracket upon rotation of the threaded insert and becoming an extension of the slide assemblies.

A plastic thumbscrew is rotatably mounted on a free end of the threaded bolt. The plastic thumbscrew acts as a lock to prevent loosening of the threaded insert on the bolt. The thumbscrew also acts a stop for the slide assemblies.

These and other objects of the invention, as well as many of the intended advantages thereof, will become more readily apparent when reference is made to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The following drawings illustrate examples of various components of the invention disclosed herein, and are for illustrative purposes only. Other embodiments that are substantially similar can use other components that have a different appearance.

FIG. **1** is an exploded view of a cabinet mounted frame having a pair of slide assemblies and a front door panel mounted on a bin holder for interengaging with the slide assemblies.

FIG. **2**A is a perspective view of the interior of a cabinet having the adjustable cabinet mounted frame of the present invention with the slide assemblies in an extended position.

FIG. **2**B is a top plan view of the two slide assemblies mounted into the bottom of a cabinet.

FIG. **2**C is a perspective view of the two slide assemblies shown in a closed position.

FIG. **3** is an exemplary view of a threaded insert prior to its modification.

FIG. **4** is a modified version of the threaded insert shown in FIG. **3** with a portion of the external sidewalls removed in a round section at a spacing above the base and a portion of the threaded insert.

FIG. **5** illustrates the threaded insert in a compressed configuration to form a rim for encasing an L-shaped bracket between the rim and a flat head of a bolt.

FIG. **6** is a cross-sectional view of the threaded insert shown in FIG. **3**.

FIG. **7** is a top plan view of the threaded insert shown in FIG. **3**.

FIG. **8** is a cross-sectional view of the threaded insert after a rounded portion forming a relief collar has been removed and the threaded insert is compressed to be captured within a hole of an L-shaped bracket while allowing free rotation of the threaded insert.

FIG. **9** illustrates a flat head stud bolt for use with the slide assemblies of the present invention.

FIG. **10** illustrates the capturing of the head of the bolt shown in FIG. **9** within a recess of a rear cross member bracket so as to fix the bolt in place.

FIG. **11** illustrates a nylon knurled nut which acts as a stop for rearward movement of the slide assembly and for locking the position of the threaded insert on the bolt.

FIG. **12** illustrates an L-shaped bracket having the modified threaded insert of the present invention captured within a hole of the L-shaped bracket for free rotation of the threaded insert.

FIG. **13** illustrates the mounting of the L-shaped bracket onto a bolt held securely in place on the rear cross member bracket with the nylon knurled nut placed over the threaded insert to secure the location of the threaded insert.

FIG. **14** is an opposite side view of the assembly shown in FIG. **13**.

FIG. **15** is an exploded view of the L-shaped bracket and slide assembly prior to mounting of the L-shaped bracket by rivets onto the slide assembly.

FIG. **16** illustrates the two adjustment mechanisms of the present invention mounted onto the rear end of two slide assemblies with the two slide assemblies interconnected by a rear cross-member bracket and a front cross-member bracket.

FIG. **17** illustrates the Z-shaped front cross-member bracket secured by rivets underneath and to the two spaced apart slide assemblies.

FIG. **18** illustrates the Z-shaped front cross-member bracket prior to its installation on the bottom of the cabinet and secured by rivets to two slide assemblies.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In describing a preferred embodiment of the invention illustrated in the drawings, specific terminology will be resorted to for the sake of clarity. However, the invention is not intended to be limited to the specific terms so selected, and it is to be understood that each specific term includes all technical equivalents which operate in a similar manner to accomplish a similar purpose.

With respect to the drawings, and with reference to FIGS. **1** through **2**C, in particular, the present invention is shown mounted inside on the bottom of a cabinet **20**. In FIG. **1**, a recycling bin fixture **22** secured to a front door panel **24** of the cabinet is shown at an angle for mounting on the two slide assemblies **26**, **28**. As shown in greater detail in FIG. **2**A, the slide assemblies **26**, **28** are mounted on the bottom **30** of the cabinet **20**. The slide assemblies extend from the rear **32** of the cabinet towards its front edge **34**.

As shown in the plan view of FIG. **2**B, the slide assemblies **26**, **28** are interconnected at a rear end **26**A, **28**A by a rear cross member **36**. Similarly, at the front end of the cabinet, the two slide assemblies **26**, **28** are interconnected at front ends **26**B, **28**B by a front cross-member **40**.

In FIG. **2**B, the two slide assemblies are shown in the extended position. In FIG. **2**C, the two slide assemblies are showed in the retracted position.

In forming the two adjustment mechanisms **42**, **44**, as shown at the rear ends **26**A, **28**A of the two slide assemblies, a threaded insert **46** is initially machined to reduce the treaded insert in cross-section and form a round relief collar portion **48**. The removal of material is above the base **50** and above a portion **51** of the hex shaped threaded insert, but below the remaining internally threaded portion **52**. The removal of material at the relief collar **48** provides for a weakening of the structure of the threaded insert **46** above portion **51**. This reduced diameter portion forms a round outer circumference for subsequent crushing to form a rim **58**. As shown in FIGS. **6** and **7**, the threaded insert **46** includes an internally threaded portion **54** having an external hexagonal shape. Also, a round hollow interior portion **56** is located on the interior of the threaded insert.

Due to the weakening of the threaded insert at the relief collar by the removal of material and thus a thinning of the wall thickness, when the threaded insert is subjected to a compressive load in a press, the threaded insert will collapse along the portion **48** and produce an externally directed lip or rim **58**. In FIG. **5**, the threaded insert is shown in a fully collapsed position as a result of compressive force. This example shows the portion **51** which remains. Portion **51** has a height of approximately 0.080 inches. This height should be maintained at approximately 0.010 inches greater than a thickness of an L-shaped bracket within which the insert is to be located.

As more aptly shown in FIG. **8**, the crushing of portion **48** of the threaded insert produces the rim **58** but only to a point such that a bracket **59**, for example, is captured surrounding portion **51** between base **50** and rim **58**. Bracket **59** has a thickness of approximately 0.072 inches +/−0.005 inches. The threaded insert **46** is of a lesser diameter than the hole **62** formed in the bracket **59** such that when the insert **46** is placed in hole **62** and after compression of the threaded insert, the portion **51** of the threaded insert is still capable of freely rotating within the hole **62** of the bracket **59**. This function will be explained further with reference to FIGS. **12** through **14**.

In FIG. **9**, a stud bolt **60** is shown having flattened head base **62** and threaded portion **64**. This bolt has a height of approximately 3 to 4 inches. The head **62** is captured and fixedly held in place in a recess formed in the rear cross-member **36** as shown in FIG. **10**. In this position, when the rear cross-member is secured to the bottom **30** of a cabinet, the head **62** is held in place and prevented from rotating within the swaged portion **66** of the rear cross-member **36**.

In FIG. **11**, a nylon knurled nut **68** is shown. This nut **68** fits on top of the free end of the bolt **60** to secure the positioning of the threaded insert onto the bolt **60** and also serves as a stop for engagement with the slide assemblies **26**, **28**, as shown in FIG. **2**C, when the slide assemblies are in their retracted position.

In FIG. **12**, the specially modified threaded insert **46** is shown rotatably mounted within a hole of an L-shaped bracket **59**. The threaded insert is allowed to freely rotate in the L-shaped bracket while being retained in its position relative to the L-shaped bracket **59**.

In FIGS. **13** and **14**, the bolt **60** is shown secured to the rear cross-member **36**. The rear cross-member is in turn secured to the floor **30** of the cabinet. The modified threaded insert **46** is threaded onto the bolt **60** and rotated until the threaded insert **46** with its associated L-shaped bracket **59** approaches, but is spaced from the rear cross-member **36**. The nut **68** is shown in position securing the threaded insert **46** from being rotated, but it is understood that the nut **68** may be removed for further adjustment of the threaded insert **46** by clockwise or counter-clockwise rotation of the threaded insert to move towards the cross-member **36** or away from the cross-member **36**.

As shown in FIG. **15**, the L-shaped bracket **59** has two rivet holes **70**, **72**. The bracket **59** is moved to engage with the slide assembly **26** having rivet receiving holes **74**, **76**. Rivets **78**, **80** secure the bracket **59** to a slide assembly through aligned rivet holes **70**, **72** and **74**, **76**, respectively.

As shown in the assembled form in FIG. **16**, rivets **78**, **80** extend through the rivet receiving holes **70**, **72** of the L-shaped bracket **59** and the rivet receiving holes **74**, **76** of the slide assembly **26** to secure the adjustment assembly **42** on the rear cross-member **36** and the slide assembly **26**. Similarly, the opposed adjustment mechanism **44** is secured to the slide assembly **28**. By this positioning, the threaded inserts **46** on each of the two L-shaped brackets **59** may be rotated to independently move the rear ends of the two slide assemblies **26**, **28** up and down with respect to the rear cross-member **36**.

At the opposite ends of the slide assemblies **26**, **28**, the slide assemblies are also riveted to the front cross-member **40**. The front cross-member **40** as shown in FIGS. **17** and **18** is of a Z-shaped configuration having a thickness from 18 to 14 gauges. As shown in FIG. **18**, the front cross-member **40** includes a horizontally extending portion **82** which is vertically spaced above the cabinet floor **30** by a vertically extending or rising portion **84**. Portion **82** has a width of approximately 1.5 inches.

Portion **84** terminates at the cabinet floor **30** by another horizontally extending portion **86**. Portion **86** has a width of approximately 0.5 inches. Portion **86** is secured to the cabinet floor **30** by screws or bolts passing through holes **88** to elevate portion **82** above the floor **30** by a height "h" of approximately 0.5 inches, and preferably 0.42 inches.

As shown in portion **82**, rivet holes **90** are formed for connection with the front ends of the slide assemblies **26**, **28**. The bottom of rivets **92** are shown in FIG. **17**. As shown in FIG. **16**, and in more detail in FIG. **17**, the vertically extending or vertically rising portion **84** spaces the horizontally extending portion **82**, and thereby the front ends of the slide assemblies **26** and **28**, above the cabinet floor.

In the operation of the present invention, the front cabinet door **24** is mounted onto an assembly **22** which slides on slide assemblies **26** and **28**. To achieve a perfect alignment of the cabinet door **24** with respect to the cabinet **20**, it is necessary to adjust the relative three dimensional alignment between the rear face of the cabinet door and the front face of the cabinet. This is oftentimes difficult to achieve.

By the present invention, independent rotation of the threaded insert of the two adjustment mechanisms **42**, **44** achieves an independent relative transposition of the cabinet door by the balanced deflection of the front cross-member rigidly secured to the slide assemblies. The horizontally extending portion **82** of the front cross-member is caused to "twist" by the relative independent rotation of the threaded inserts on the bolts **60** at the rear of the slide assemblies. Due to the disparity in height between the rear ends of the slide assemblies, a diagonal twisting of portion **82** translates into an adjustment of the relative positioning of the cabinet door.

For example, if one adjustment assembly has its threaded insert rotated towards the head **62** of the bolt **60** whereas the other threaded insert, on the opposed adjustment mechanism, is unscrewed away from the head **62**, the two slide assemblies will be caused to move in opposite directions with the net balancing between the two assemblies causing a shifting of the cabinet door along a plurality of axes to provide for proper alignment of the cabinet door with respect to the cabinet frame by a torsional twisting of the front cross member.

It is understood that the rotation of the threaded inserts may be of differing amounts in the same direction either towards the bolt head **62**, or in opposite directions, or away from the bolt head **62**, as well as rotation of only one of the threaded inserts to cause the required shifting of the cabinet door.

The foregoing description should be considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and, accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. An adjustable cabinet mounted frame for controlling an orientation of a cabinet door of a cabinet within which the frame is mounted, said adjustable cabinet mounted frame comprising

two spaced apart slide assemblies,

a front cross-member secured to and interconnecting a front end of each of the two slide assemblies, the front cross-member being configured for being secured to the cabinet, and

two adjustment mechanisms connected to a rear end respectively of each of the two slide assemblies, said two adjustment mechanisms being independently operable to raise and lower the respective rear end of each of the two slide assemblies,

said front cross member being flexible and twistable to accommodate independent operation of said adjustment mechanisms to control an orientation of the slide assemblies and thereby the orientation of the cabinet door with respect to the cabinet dependent upon an amount of independent adjustment of the adjustment mechanisms,

the front cross member including a horizontally oriented portion connected to said two slide assemblies and a vertically rising portion elevating the horizontally oriented portion above a floor of the cabinet.

2. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **1**, wherein the front cross-member includes another horizontally oriented portion for securing the front cross-member to the floor of the cabinet.

3. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **1**, wherein each of the adjustment mechanisms includes a bolt fixed with respect to a floor of the cabinet and a threaded insert rotatably mounted on the bolt to independently raise or lower the rear end of the respective slide assemblies upon rotation of the threaded insert.

4. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **3**, wherein the threaded insert of each adjustment mechanism is rotatably mounted in a bracket, the bracket is secured to the rear end of each of the respective slide assemblies to raise or lower the rear end of the slide assemblies upon rotation of the threaded insert for pivoting of the slide assemblies about the front cross-member and thereby adjusting the orientation of the cabinet door dependent upon the independent adjustment of the adjustment mechanisms.

5. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **4**, wherein a knurled nut is rotatably mounted on the bolt above

the threaded insert to secure the threaded insert in place and provide a stop for each of the respective slide assemblies.

6. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **4**, wherein the bracket includes a hole and the threaded insert is of a lesser diameter than a diameter of the hole for rotation of the threaded insert in the hole.

7. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **4**, wherein the threaded insert is rotatably captured in a hole of the bracket between a base of the threaded insert and a rim of the threaded insert, the rim is spaced from the base by a height greater than a thickness of the bracket.

8. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **3**, wherein the bolt of each adjustment mechanism is fixed in place by a rear cross-member, the rear cross-member is secured to a floor of the cabinet.

9. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **8**, wherein the rear cross member interconnects the rear end of each of the slide assemblies.

10. An adjustable cabinet mounted frame for controlling an orientation of a cabinet door of a cabinet within which the frame is mounted, said adjustable cabinet mounted frame comprising

two spaced apart slide assemblies,

a cross-member secured to and interconnecting the two slide assemblies, the cross-member being configured for being secured to the cabinet, and

two adjustment mechanisms connected to an end respectively of each of the two slide assemblies, said two adjustment mechanisms being independently operable to raise and lower the respective end of each of the two slide assemblies,

said cross member being flexible and twistable to accommodate independent operation of said two adjustment mechanisms to control an orientation of the slide assemblies and thereby the orientation of the cabinet door with respect to the cabinet dependent upon a relative amount of independent adjustment of the adjustment mechanisms,

the cross member including a horizontally oriented portion connected to said two slide assemblies and a vertically rising portion elevating the horizontally oriented portion above a floor of the cabinet.

11. An adjustable cabinet mounted frame for controlling an orientation of a cabinet door of a cabinet within which the frame is mounted, said adjustable cabinet mounted frame comprising

two spaced apart slide assemblies,

a front cross-member secured to and interconnecting a front end of each of the two slide assemblies, and

two adjustment mechanisms connected to a rear end respectively of each of the two slide assemblies, said two adjustment mechanisms being independently operable to raise and lower the respective rear end of each of the two slide assemblies,

said front cross member being flexible to accommodate independent operation of said adjustment mechanisms to control an orientation of the slide assemblies and thereby the orientation of the cabinet door dependent upon an amount of independent adjustment of the adjustment mechanisms,

each of the adjustment mechanisms including a bolt fixed with respect to a floor of the cabinet and a threaded insert rotatably mounted on the bolt to independently raise or lower the rear end of the respective slide assemblies upon rotation of the threaded insert.

12. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **11**, wherein the front cross member includes a horizontally oriented portion connected to said two slide assemblies and a vertically rising portion elevating the horizontally oriented portion above a floor of the cabinet.

13. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **12**, wherein the front cross-member includes another horizontally oriented portion for securing the front cross-member to the floor of the cabinet.

14. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **11**, wherein the threaded insert of each adjustment mechanism is rotatably mounted in a bracket, the bracket is secured to the rear end of each of the respective slide assemblies to raise or lower the rear end of the slide assemblies upon rotation of the threaded insert for pivoting of the slide assemblies about the front cross-member and thereby adjusting the orientation of the cabinet door dependent upon the independent adjustment of the adjustment mechanisms.

15. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **14**, wherein a knurled nut is rotatably mounted on the bolt above the threaded insert to secure the threaded insert in place and provide a stop for each of the respective slide assemblies.

16. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **14**, wherein the bracket includes a hole and the threaded insert is of a lesser diameter than a diameter of the hole for rotation of the threaded insert in the hole.

17. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **14**, wherein the threaded insert is rotatably captured in a hole of the bracket between a base of the threaded insert and a rim of the threaded insert, the rim is spaced from the base by a height greater than a thickness of the bracket.

18. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **11**, wherein the bolt of each adjustment mechanism is fixed in place by a rear cross-member, the rear cross-member is secured to a floor of the cabinet.

19. The adjustable cabinet mounted frame of claim **18**, wherein the rear cross member interconnects the rear end of each of the slide assemblies.

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